

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, which were subject to a Restriction Requirement, have been canceled without prejudice to their being re-filed in a subsequent divisional application. Claims 8-35 stand rejected. Claims 8 and 25 have been amended. New claims 36-38 have been added. In view of the following remarks, applicants request re-examination and allowance of the claims.

Claims 8-35 are Patentable Over Taplan

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claims 12-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over US Patent No. 6,032,662 to Taplan ("Taplan"). This rejection is respectfully traversed because Taplan does not anchor the supply tube to a burner box.

The cooktop of subject claims 8-24 has a burner box comprising:

"a force member acting against the burner box to bias at least a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of the burner head a force member acting against the burner box to bias at least a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of the burner head and anchor the supply tube to the burner box housing; "

(Independent Claim 8) Similarly, the cooking device of subject claims 25-35 has a burner box comprising:

"a force member acting against the burner box to bias at least a portion of the supply tube upwardly into the fuel feed port of the burner head and anchor the supply tube to the burner box housing; "

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(Independent Claim 25). No corresponding feature is found in Taplan. Instead, Taplan pulls a burner box down against the upper surface of the cooktop or fixes the burner box to the cooktop and pushes a supply tube up against the bottom of the cooktop.

More specifically, in the embodiment of Fig. 1 of Taplan, spring 4 pulls burner box 9 down onto a top surface of cooktop 1. It does not anchor the supply tube to the burner box. This simply is different from the present claim requirement of a force member anchoring the supply tube to the burner box housing.

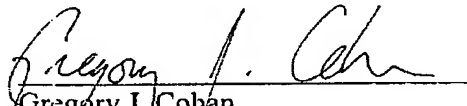
In Taplan's other embodiment, Figs. 2-4, supply tube 19 simply isn't anchored to a burner box. Spring 7 in Taplan's Figs. 2-4 embodiment sits on the housing and pushes supply tube 19 up against the bottom of the cooktop. This does not meet the present claim requirement of a force member anchoring the supply tube to the burner box housing.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing, applicant requests that all claims pending in the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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